

From: [Lamberth, Larry](#)
To: [Mitchell, Ken](#); [Freeman, Caroline](#); [Kemker, Carol](#)
Cc: [Russo, Todd](#); [Groendyke, Todd](#); [Storm, Pamela](#); [Dressler, Jason](#); [Newman, Keriema](#); [Hodoh, Ofia](#); [Reynolds, Mary](#); [Rinck, Todd](#)
Subject: RE: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:38:14 AM

ECAD received a letter from Rhonda Flemming from the same prison, with the same accusations.
She claims to have filed a tort claim in the Northern District of FL
4:20-cv-00545

Larry L. Lamberth
Deputy Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
14th Floor Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Telephone: 404-562-8590
Cell: (b)(6)(b)(6)
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From: Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>
Cc: Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Groendyke, Todd <Groendyke.Todd@epa.gov>; Storm, Pamela <Storm.Pamela@epa.gov>; Dressler, Jason <Dressler.Jason@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>; Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>; Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>; Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Carol and Caroline....

Here is the draft response developed by ARD and ECAD to the inquiry made to John Blevins (see email string below). I also added the statement "For clarification, EPA Region 4 has not condemned the buildings in question."

If you have no further edits, I can send this response on to Mr. King.

Malik King

Via Email at: (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

Dear Mr. King,

This is in response to your August 10, 2021, email to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia. You expressed concerns about air quality, mold, and asbestos in the FCI Tallahassee federal women's prison. You also noted that EPA had condemned several buildings at the facility as unsafe.

Regarding mold, EPA provides information on mold, its effects on indoor air quality and health, and guidance for addressing mold issues in buildings (see <https://www.epa.gov/mold>). EPA does not test or inspect homes or businesses for mold and cannot intervene in landlord/tenant issues regarding a mold issue. Mold problems often result from a plumbing leak, structural damage that allows water into a building, and/or high humidity. While most local building codes do not specifically address mold, they often address the underlying issues related to mold growth such as leaking roofs and plumbing issues.

County or city code enforcement officers would usually be the first point of contact to respond to these types of issues; however, because the FCI Tallahassee is a federal prison, we recommend you refer your complaint to the U.S. General Services Administration, Tallahassee office, at 850-228-1134 and to the Florida Department of Corrections at 850-488-5021.

During a period when a mold problem is present, but not yet remediated, the prison may be able to improve indoor air quality by increasing, where possible, the amount of outdoor air coming indoors and taking steps help to dry out affected areas (e.g., by deploying dehumidifiers). The Florida Department of Public Health and the Leon County Health Department can provide advice on these and other indoor air quality issues. They can be reached at 850-245-4288 and 800-543-8279, respectively.

Regarding asbestos, EPA regulates renovation and demolition activities that may involve the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials under 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 61, Subpart M, National Emission Standard for

Asbestos (commonly referred to as the Asbestos NESHAP). Asbestos is found in many building materials. If these materials are in good condition, they do not pose a respiratory health hazard unless they are improperly handled during disturbance, such as in repair or removal. The Asbestos NESHAP includes requirements for inspection, notification, work practices, and disposal designed to minimize the release of asbestos fibers during the disturbance of these materials.

In the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) implements and enforces state regulations which include all requirements of the Asbestos NESHAP. EPA Region 4 has contacted FDEP's Tallahassee office to share the information that you provided for their investigation to ensure that asbestos-containing materials are properly handled during renovation/demolition activities at the facility. (For clarification, EPA Region 4 has not condemned the buildings in question.)

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mary Reynolds of the EPA Region 4 staff at reynolds.mary@epa.gov or 404-562-8991.

Kenneth L. Mitchell, Ph.D. | Deputy Director |

Air and Radiation Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | 61 Forsyth Street, SW | Atlanta, GA 30303

Voice: 404-562-9065 | Fax: 404-562-9066 | Email: mitchell.ken@epa.gov

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From: Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:43 AM

To: Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>

Cc: Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>; Medlock, Catrell <Medlock.Catrell@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

The requestor (Malik King) sent an email, see below addressed to John Blevins and Tami Thomas-Burton on August 10.

Ofia Hodoh, DrPH

Chief, Communities and Air Toxics Section

Air and Radiation Division

U.S. EPA Region 4

61 Forsyth St. SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Office (404) 562-9176 **EPA Mobile** (404) 809-1850

Email hodoh.ofia@epa.gov

From: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:25 AM

To: Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>

Cc: Ward, Nacosta <Ward.Nacosta@epa.gov>; McCorkle-Kester, Phalia <McCorkle-Kester.Phalia@epa.gov>; Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Hi Carol,

Since the requestor mentioned the air quality/mold inside of the prison, ARD can take the lead on the response with ECAD's input about the asbestos allegation.

Thanks,
Caroline

From: Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:13 AM

To: Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>

Cc: Ward, Nacosta <Ward.Nacosta@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Caroline and Ken,

ECAD can provide language about the asbestos portion of the letter. We will work with FDEP on what the situation is regarding asbestos at the prison. I assume the email response may come from either division.

Thanks,
Carol

From: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:46 AM

To: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

FYI

John Blevins
Acting Region 4 Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 4
980 College Station Road
Athens GA 30605

(b)(6)(b)(6) cell
706-355-8549 office
404-562-8231 (Atlanta Office number)

LSASD Mission Statement: To provide sound science to our customers through superior environmental evaluation.

LSASD Vision Statement: To be a solutions oriented organization, and seen as a leader in sound science through innovation, responsive customer service, and cutting-edge expertise.

Act with Urgency Every Day!
Sharpen the Saw!

From: Malik King (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:56 AM

To: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>; Thomas-Burton, Tami <Thomas-Burton.Tami@epa.gov>

Subject: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

To Whom It May Concern:

There are people I care about at FCI-Tallahassee, a federal women's prison. Your agency has

condemned several buildings due to the air quality being unsafe, with high levels of toxic mold and asbestos. I would like to know why inmates are still living in these buildings, 18 months or more, after your agency has filed reports stating the buildings are unsafe.

Please use your enforcement authority to remove inmates from these housing units. Many of them are very sick. At least 160 have filed tort claims with the Regional Counsel's Office for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in Atlanta. The prison officials are aware of the problem and are doing nothing to protect the inmates.

Sincerely,

Malik